

# Glad Tidings

December

2022

*"Buy the truth, and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23)*

**FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION  
Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow**

*Philippians 4:13*

*I Corinthians 15:19*

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Jesus is the eternal Son of God and is from everlasting to everlasting, just like His Heavenly Father. (Psalm 90:2) He was there with God when the world and everything therein was created. (John 1:1-2) He left the glory He had with the Father and condescended to be born of a virgin and become flesh and blood. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

It was flesh and blood that transgressed the law of God in the Garden of Eden and brought sin into the world. This necessitated that a flesh and blood man must pay the sin debt that had been incurred because of sin. The wages of sin is death said Paul in Rom. 6:23 and if not for Jesus Christ being made flesh His people would experience the second death and eternal separation from God. Heb. 2:14 says, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"

Jesus took part of the same flesh and blood; He was flesh and blood but without sin because He was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of Mary who had never known a man in an intimate way. Of course this had been prophesied many centuries before when it was promised that a virgin would conceive. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) Immanuel is "God with us" as Jesus was God made manifest in the flesh. (I Tim. 3:16)

Paul tells us, "The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven." (I Cor. 15:47) There have been more than two men on earth but Adam was the first and Jesus was the second. This is used I feel because Adam is the federal head of all humanity whereas Jesus is the head of the entire family of God. Adam came from the earth but Jesus came from heaven. Adam is a figure of Him (Jesus) that was to come. (Rom. 5:14) Sin condemned man and couldn't be removed by any but the incarnate Son of God. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:" (Rom.8:3)

Jesus Christ came into the world at the appointed time to redeem (buy, rescue from loss) His people and pay that which no flesh and blood sinner could possibly pay. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4-5) Jesus was a flesh and blood man but no ordinary man. Men had offered sacrifices over and over in the Old Testament for sins but those sacrifices could never take away sin and its consequences. Then we read, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Heb. 10:12)

One man brought sin into the world and by one man sin was atoned for and saints were made righteous. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19) Jesus made Himself of no reputation, in the likeness of men, and became obedient unto death. "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:7-8)

Jesus was both the Son of man and the Son of God. As the Son of man He represented us in His atoning sacrifice at Calvary. As the Son of God He represents God to us as a manifestation of His love. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." (I John 4:9) Then how is it that anyone is enabled to acknowledge Him as the Son of God. Peter told Christ, "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:16) Jesus told Peter how he was enabled to make this confession: "...Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 16:17) No man can reveal Jesus as the Son of living God; it takes a higher power.

When Jesus comes the second time, He will come as the Son of man. He shall sit upon the throne of His glory. Before Him shall be gathered all nations and He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats. (Matt. 25:31-33) The sheep on the right hand inherit the kingdom while the goats go into everlasting fire. (LW)

**GLAD TIDINGS  
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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**ELDER DALTON, AN IRISHMAN,  
AND A TRAIN CONDUCTOR**

I was once traveling through the great state of Kentucky and had to change cars at a little place called Nortonville, a very small dismal looking place. I found upon my arrival there that I would have a seven hour wait; so I began walking up and down the platform trying to kill time as best I could. After a while an Irishman, ragged and dirty, came into the depot and took a seat. I noticed that he was all the time watching me, and I at last made up my mind that perhaps he was after no good; so I watched him with a very suspicious eye.

Finally he spoke, as I was passing the door, and said to me, "Come here and sit down. I want to talk to you." I thought, "I am not afraid of you," so I went and sat down. The first thing he did was to reach over and push my hat back. He remarked, "I like your countenance, and I feel like I want to talk to you." I said to him, "Talk on then; I will listen to you."

We began quoting scriptures and applying them. I soon found out he was well versed in the Scriptures and that he understood what they meant, if I did; so I became very much interested; and after he had talked on for some time on that line, he began to tell his experience. He went on to tell what a sinner he felt himself to be, and how he tried to beg the Lord to have mercy on him.

At last he said he was down on the railroad not far from that place, and he thought his time had come; he was shoveling dirt and trying to pray, until at last he felt that it was a case made out, there was no mercy for him; yet felt that God was just, and it was

but right that he should be banished from His presence forever. But he said that all at once the trouble left him, light flashed all around him, and the first thing he knew, he was standing between the rails praising the Lord at the top of his voice, and the other hands all laughing at him; but he said that he did not care for their laughing, he loved the Saviour, and felt like he never could praise Him enough for what he had done for him.

When he got through I was crying for joy. I loved him and could not help it. I felt like he was my brother, so I told him what I hoped the Lord had done for me; and ere I was aware the train ran up and I had no ticket, and could only run and get on the train. I reached back, after I had got on the step of the car, to shake hands with him, and he kissed my hand before he would turn it loose.

I went in and took my seat, was still crying, could not quit, and the conductor came around taking up tickets. When he came to me I told him I had no ticket, but I would pay him the money; and while we were changing the money, he asked me what I was crying about. I tried to waive the subject by telling him that I didn't suppose he would know anything about it if I should tell him; so he went on. But after he had taken all of the tickets, and came back and sat down beside me, and asked me again what I was crying about. I tried to waive it off again by saying that it would be of no interest to him; but he urged me, saying, "I want to know anyhow." So I told him about the Irishman, and our talk; and before I was done, he was crying, and remarked to me, "I have been wanting to talk to someone on that subject for some time," and he began and told me his experience. Then I was filled with joy again; and before I reached my destination he came and handed my money back and told me any time I could strike his train not to get any ticket; "For," he said, "you are the first man I ever talked with that knew my feelings."

I never was permitted to meet either of them any more; but I felt then, and I feel now, that after a while I will meet them both in heaven, if I should ever be permitted to get to that good world; for no man ever taught those two men that lesson. They had never heard it, but they had learned it alone by the revelation of Jesus Christ.—**Elder T. S. Dalton**, (*From his Autobiography, 1912*)

(From "Advocate and Messenger", January, 2007)

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"And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment." "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:38, 39, 48)

**WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?**

By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

It is a sad time for the survivors when they must say goodbye to a loved one who has passed away. However, we can rejoice in knowing that the child of God is in heaven in spirit and soul. The body of the deceased child of God is the only thing that is asleep when it is placed in the grave. The child of God is comprised of three components: 1. the body 2. the Spirit 3. the soul. Read what Paul wrote concerning these three to the Thessalonians, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess. 5:23) Death is a separation; not only is it a separation from family and friends but it is separation of the soul and spirit from the body and this constitutes death. James tells us, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26)

Remember the spirit and soul are immortal and do not and cannot die. Our little finite minds cannot separate the soul and spirit as they are not the same but the living Word (Jesus Christ) can. (Heb. 4:16) What happens when the body dies which was made from the dust of earth? Solomon wrote, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Eccl. 12:7) Where is God's dwelling place? It is in heaven. (I Kings 8:39) Then if the spirit returns unto God, it goes to heaven while the body goes to the grave to sleep until the time of the resurrection of the dead.

The spirit and soul will live in the presence of God at the death of the child of God. Moses' body had been buried for decades but Peter, James and John saw him and Elijah talking with Jesus when he was transfigured on the Mount. His spirit was talking with Jesus about His decease and in this miraculous transformation it had a body that could be recognized as Moses. Elijah didn't die but went up to heaven in a whirlwind but I am confident the body was changed.

Death for the wicked dead in sins is not as pleasant as it is for the child of God. We read the case of two men who died but with two different outcomes. There was a rich man who fared sumptuously every day and when he died, he was buried but his soul was in hell. The beggar was full of

sores and desired to be fed with crumbs from the rich man's table. When the beggar, named Lazarus, died he was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom which was a Jewish term for heaven. The rich man's soul was in torments in the flames of hell but his body was buried. The beggar was at peace in heaven defined here as Abraham's bosom. (Luke 16:19-24) After Simeon held Jesus at about 40 days old, he, as the servant of God, was ready to depart in peace because his eyes had seen thy salvation. (Luke 2:29)

Paul prayed that the spirit, soul and body would be preserved blameless until the day of Jesus Christ as we have already seen in I Thess. 5:23. He then goes on to say regarding this prayer, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (I Thess. 5:24) The faithful God will always, without exception, perform what He has promised. The soul and spirit doesn't sleep. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection but Jesus told them regarding Abraham Isaac and Jacob: "...God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Their bodies were buried but they were alive in heaven. (Matt. 22:32) The only part of the child of God that will ever sleep is the body. Jesus referred to death as a sleep and Paul said we would not all sleep (die) but we would all be changed in a moment and in the twinkling of an eye at the second coming of the Lord.

In the resurrection of the body, the spirit, soul and body will be reunited in an incorruptible state. The final state of the saints in body, soul and spirit will be at God's right hand in the eternal kingdom of God. (Matt. 25:34) Their vile bodies will be changed and fashioned like unto the glorious body of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:21) The final state of the wicked will be on the left hand of God and banished into the lake of fire which is the second death. (Rev. 20:14-15) Without the grace of God we would all be in the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels, but we have a hope that at death we will be at peace in heaven while our bodies sleep. Paul states, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Cor. 15:19)

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**DEATH**

I was driving with my children to my wife's funeral where I was to preach the sermon. As we came into one small town there strode down in front of us a truck that came to stop before a red light. It was the biggest truck I ever saw in my life, and the sun was shining on it at just the right angle that took its shadow and spread it across the snow on the field beside it. As the shadow covered that field, I said, "Look children at that truck, and look at its shadow. If you had to be run over, which would you rather be run over by? Would you rather be run over by the truck or by the shadow?" My youngest child said, "The shadow couldn't hurt anybody." "That's right," I continued, "and death is a truck, but the shadow is all that ever touches the Christian. The truck ran over the Lord Jesus. Only the shadow is gone over mother." --Donald Grey Barnhouse.

**SAMSON**

By Elder Lee Hanks (Deceased)

Samson slew the lion and afterwards ate honey out of the carcass. Christ destroyed the works of the devil, the roaring lion, and afterwards was filled, satisfied with the redemption He had wrought out for His people. He saw of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. This was sweet and the great delight of the Son of God that He had most completely destroyed every opposing power against His beloved bride whom He loved and cherished so sacredly. Every enemy was put under his feet. Jesus slew the lion of the law that it could have no more power over or dominion over His chosen. This honey is the sweet blessings enjoyed by the Lord's humble poor, when they experimentally receive the perfect atonement of Christ. Also there are lions of opposition in the pathway of the Christian, viz.: Doubts, fears, fleshly lusts, pride, covetousness, worldly conformity, indifference, envy, jealousy, evil-speaking, malice, back-biting, hypocrisy, unbelief, ingratitude, stubbornness, rule or ruin, etc., in the fleshly nature of the child of God, when he is enabled by the Spirit of God to subdue and overcome these, he has sweetness and ecstatic joy of soul. These fleshly lusts that war against the soul is a most powerful and peace destroying lion, and often keeps the child of God in disobedience, the results of which is death to his spiritual comforts and spiritual enjoyments; but when he by the Spirit mortifies the deeds of the flesh he lives in sweet fellowship and communion with Jesus and His precious saints. He eats honey out of the slain carcass. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest for your souls." The lion of flesh must be denied daily, or we cannot be His disciples. Samson's strength was in his head, so the strength of all the chosen, the body of Christ, is in Christ, their spiritual head. Samson is also a type of Christ in his going to the Philistines, an inferior nation, to seek a bride for himself; so Jesus condescended to be made of a woman, made under the law, partook of our nature, sin excepted, to seek a bride for Himself among poor sinners. He became poor that we might be rich; He became humbled that we might be exalted; He died that we might live; He came to earth, took our place, and bore all our sins in His own body that we might spend eternity in Heaven. Bless His holy name—He wore our rags, that we might wear His spotless righteousness.

Samson slew more enemies in his death than in all his life, so Christ accomplished more (put away all our sins; satisfied every demand of the law) in His death than He did in all of the wonderful and most glorious and powerful works of His life. He slew the lion, we now are eating the honey. Jesus elevates us from our low estate, and makes us kings and priests, having washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Samson removing the gates of Gaza, perhaps is typical of Jesus Christ removing gates of death, and conquering every foe by His resurrection.

Jesus, our spiritual Samson, can reverse the cunning craftiness of man's fleshly nature (tying the foxes' tails together) by pouring out His judgments (firebrands) and thereby destroying all the works of their own hands that which grow out of the earth—man's works. Shocks of corn is what we can plant and raise ourselves. Cain brought the tillage of the earth as an offering. God rejects all the works of the flesh. He accepts no offering in the absence of faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is a fruit of the Spirit. May we all love, reverence, adore our great spiritual Samson who has done so much for us. L.H.

The robe of righteousness Christ wrought out for His bride covers her all over and does not leave so much of her person like the modern abominable fashions from wicked Paris. Mothers, beware of such fashions! Care for your precious daughters! L. H.

(From "The Gospel Messenger", July, 1920)

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**THE GOD MAN**

By Elder Tim Cunningham  
Ethridge, Tennessee

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." (John 3:13)

The Lord Jesus was in Heaven while He spoke to Nicodemus upon Earth! How was this possible?

Here we see the mystery of godliness: "God was manifest in the flesh..."! (1Timothy 3:16). As man, Jesus was upon Earth speaking to Nicodemus. But as the eternal God, He was reigning from His throne in Heaven!

As a man, He limited Himself to the time/space continuum. But as God, His eternal presence continued to "fill heaven and earth" (Jeremiah 23:24).

As Son of man, He came to do the will of His Heavenly Father, and save His people from their sins (John 6:38; Matthew 1:21), by means of His death on Calvary's cross and resurrection from the dead.

As the eternal Son of God, He ascended to Heaven and "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3), from which He intercedes as our High Priest and shall return the second time to receive us to Himself! (Hebrews 9:24-28).—Elder Tim Cunningham—July 23, 2018

### WILL POWER

The will power of man should not be *underestimated* nor should it be *overestimated*. We teach the young that “where there is a will there is a way.” There is much truth in this. To be determined to win an object is half the battle. It is the person with strong will power that makes an impression on the age. The “I will try” spirit is commendable. The “I can’t” spirit never leads to success.

But we should confine such teaching to the things of the world. We should not teach people that they can, by their own will power, take the kingdom of God. Heaven is not obtained by the will of man. As Elder Dalton once said, “We don’t go to heaven by main strength and awkwardness.” In the resurrection our bodies will not be raised by the will power of man; nor are we raised from death in sin to life in Christ Jesus by our will power. Lazarus came forth from the grave, but not by the power of his will. He says, “By the grace of God I am what I am.” “It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy” (Rom. 9:16). Christ said to some, “Ye will not come to me that ye might have life.” How long will it take a man to do that which he will not do?

But the “Free Willer” who believes that heaven and eternal glory is obtained by the power of the human will says, “Whosoever will may come.” And so he can in the sense of the Scripture, “Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.” It is the *water of life* the willing one takes freely—not life. It is the living, naturally, who take the water of this material kingdom freely. Thirst makes us appreciate water. The *living* thirst—the *dead* do not. If we hunger and thirst for righteousness, and want to be more like Jesus and love and serve Him, we have been born again from above. We are new creatures. We are *spiritual* as well as *natural*. We have a will to go to Jesus. “Whosoever will”, *whosoever has the will to come*, let *him* come. God’s children have the will when regenerated. The natural man has not the will. Paul says, “The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

And, dear reader, do not forget this coming to Jesus is not in order to get spiritual life, but because one *has* spiritual life and comes to Him to enjoy the water of life—to feast on the bread of life, to receive comfort, consolation, peace and all spiritual blessings. In order for one to go from death in sin to life in Jesus or go to Jesus in this sense, he must be drawn. No man can do this of himself. Christ says, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.” He says again, “All that the Father giveth me *shall* come to me.” Here is sure salvation for those who feel without strength—for every hungering, thirsting, sorrowing one who calls

upon the Lord for help, and worships Him in spirit and in truth. When they are weak, then are they strong (See II Cor. 12:10)—weak in self, strong in Jesus. And when thus blest with life and love and faith, we can labor in His kingdom here on earth to His glory and our own good. May we do it. Let us say with the poet:

I will start anew this morning, with a higher, fairer  
 creed.  
 I will cease to stand complaining of my ruthless  
 neighbor’s greed.  
 I will cease to sit repining while my duty’s call is  
 clear,  
 I will waste no moment whining and my heart shall  
 know no fear.  
 I will look sometimes about me for the things that  
 merit praise,  
 I will search the hidden beauties that elude the  
 gambler’s gaze,  
 I will try to find contentment in the paths that I must  
 tread,  
 I will cease to have resentment when another  
 moves ahead.  
 I will not be swayed by envy when my rival’s  
 strength is shown,  
 I will not deny his merit, but I’ll strive to prove my  
 own,  
 I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain  
 or shine—  
 I will cease to preach *your* duty, and be more  
 concerned with mine.

—Elder R. H. Pittman, *Zion’s Advocate*, 1916  
 (From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, Dec. 2006)

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### CHRIST—BOTH GOD AND MAN

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

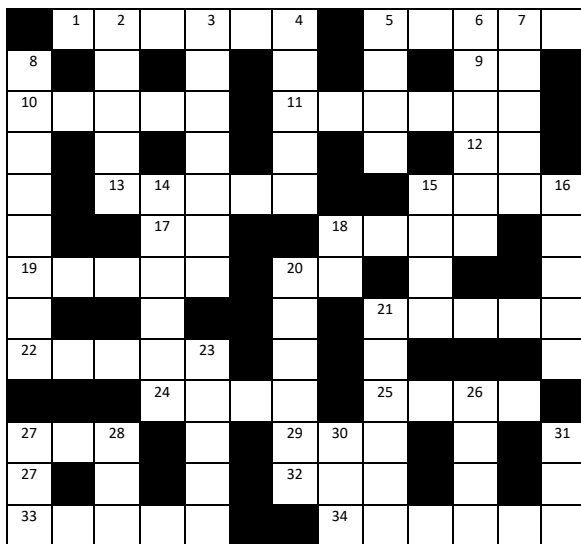
Unless Christ was both God and man, there are many scriptures that simply do not make sense. For instance, Christ is spoken of in Revelation 22:16 as “the root and offspring of David.” How could this be so if Christ were a mere man? It would be impossible. The only way He could be both the *root* and the *offspring* of David is for Him to be possessed of both Deity and manhood. As God He was the “*root*” of David. That is, He was the source of David’s very origin and existence. But as *man* He was the “*offspring*” of David. That is, He descended *from* David in the sense that his legal parentage was of Davidic lineage, though He was shielded from Adamic pollution by virtue of the fact that His conception in the womb of the virgin Mary was “of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:20), before there had been any marital relations between her and her husband Joseph.

This presented an impossible dilemma for the Jews  
 (Continued on Page 8)

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:**

1. For my yoke is easy and my \_\_\_ is light.
5. If ye know these things \_\_\_ are ye if ye do them.
9. Baptism of John, was it from heaven \_\_\_ of men?
10. Think it not strange concerning the fiery \_\_\_ which is to try you. Jury \_\_\_.
11. Queen who refused king Ahasuerus' orders to come and show off her beauty.
12. Touchdown or initials of Thomas and David.
13. Handmaid of Sarah that gave birth to Ishmael.
15. Love not in word or tongue but in \_\_\_ and truth.
17. New Hampshire.
18. God opened the \_\_\_ of faith unto the Gentiles.
19. When Jesus came to house of Zacchaeus, they Said He had gone to be \_\_\_ with a sinner man.
20. \_\_\_ into all the world and preach the gospel.
21. Rebekah lifted up her eyes and lighted off her camel when she saw \_\_\_.
22. At the \_\_\_ of Babel God confounded languages.
24. Let not the \_\_\_ man glory in his riches. Wealthy.



(Answers on Page 10)

25. Jacob said, \_\_\_ me this day thy birthright to Esau.
27. The veil of the temple was rent from \_\_\_ to bottom.
29. Name of priest who saw Hannah praying without any audible words and thought she was drunk.
32. After Cain was marked, he dwelt in the land of \_\_\_.
33. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with spikenard and the house was filled with the \_\_\_ of the ointment.
34. Jesus cast the moneychangers out of the \_\_\_.

**DOWN:**

2. Bathsheba's husband whom David had killed.
3. I \_\_\_ in the law of God after the inward man.
4. I give unto them eternal life and they shall \_\_\_ perish.
5. God overthrew Pharaoh and his \_\_\_ in the Red Sea.
6. Hath not the \_\_\_ power over the clay to fashion it?
7. \_\_\_ goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**DOWN:**

8. Who can make \_\_\_ that which he made crooked?
14. Be ready to give an \_\_\_ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.
15. \_\_\_ eat of the crumbs from the master's table.
16. Blind lead the blind and both fall into the \_\_\_.
18. \_\_\_ unto others as you would have them do to you.
20. Place where Israel dwelt in Egypt, plague free.
21. True beauty is not just outside but also it is \_\_\_.
23. Naaman was told to wash 7 times in \_\_\_ of Jordan.
26. What the ten virgins took with them to meet the bridegroom. Singular.
27. Where \_\_\_ or 3 are gathered together there am I in the midst.
28. Professionals are often referred to as a \_\_\_.
30. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
31. \_\_\_ to them that are with child and give suck in those days said Jesus.

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**OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES**

Elder Steve Weaver, Pastor of Laodicea PBC, Lafayette Springs, MS said in the course of a sermon recently that one of his grand or great grand children said after church that "PePaw's sermon was a good one to sleep by today." Actually a sermon is to awake one out of spiritual sleep to be about the master's business in doing the will of God.

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**THE GOSPEL MINISTRY**

If there is any position in which men are called to fill, either in the world or the church of Christ, for which they are made to feel they have no qualifications themselves, either natural or acquired, it is that of the gospel ministry. And if there is any one position known on earth involving higher duties, greater responsibility, or more self-denying sacrifices than that which is required of an ambassador of Jesus Christ, we really do not know what that position is nor where in the Word of God we could find a record of it. No matter, therefore, how highly a man may be honoured by conferring other positions of honor or trust upon him, either in the world or the church, nor does it matter how well or faithfully he may fill them, his ministerial calling, if he be a minister of Christ, rises preeminently in importance above them all.

Elder William M. Mitchell

"The Gospel Messenger," 1885

(From "The Christian Baptist", August 1978)

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." (I Tim. 5:17)

**CHURCH NEWS**

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, MS on Hwy 346 will have its annual Christmas singing on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday night in December, 2022 (Dec. 11) beginning at 5:30 pm followed by refreshments. Everyone is invited to come and worship the Lord in song. Elder Larry wise is Pastor of Bethany.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have their Christmas singing on Sunday night, Dec. 4, 2022, beginning at 5:30 pm followed by refreshments. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

**On behalf of the Wise Family, we pray everyone will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with blessing from our Creator:**

**From left to right, front row: Joseph Wise, David Wise, Bethany Wise, Sandra Wise, Larry Wise, Isaac Wise, Paige Wise, Back row: Eli Wise and Jonathan Wise. "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow in this life and the life to come!"**



Elder Martin Onyoni from Kenya, Africa, was in the United States during the month of October, 2022 and preached at many Primitive Baptist churches the doctrines of grace and other subjects. We are thankful the Lord is blessing his ministry and others in that part of the world.

Pray for all the Primitive Baptist churches that are without pastors and those struggling to keep the church doors open in the trying times in which we live. We know God is able to provide and may God give us grace to continue to trust Him, knowing He has sufficient grace for whatever the need might be.—Editor

"If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread." (Psalm 132: 12-15)

**LAWS OR COMMANDMENTS?**

*Daily Devotion for November 3, 2001*

By Elder Louis Culver  
Deatsville, Alabama

Somebody once figured out that we have 35 million laws trying to enforce 10 Commandments.

How utterly ridiculous it is for us to try to remember 35 million laws. We know that it is, seemingly, impossible for us to remember all of the ten Commandments. We are prone to forget at least one of the Commandments at any given time. Usually we have let several slip from our memory. Sometimes we even relegate all of the Commandments in an obscure corner of our mind.

As we navigate the roads of our daily lives, we find that those 35 million laws have become stumbling blocks on the road of life. We are unable to abide by every single one of them. With so many laws on the books, it is inevitable that, to abide by one of the laws, we will sometimes be breaking another of those laws.

The conflict among the laws is reminiscent of the story about the man who was asked, under oath, if he had stopped beating his wife yet. The lawyer had demanded a simple "Yes" or "No" answer. Since the man had never been guilty of beating his wife, how was he to answer the question? An answer of "Yes" would be an admission of guilt; an answer of "No" would indicate that not only had he been beating her, but that he was still engaged in that activity!

It is better that we follow the ten Commandments, keeping them to the very best of our ability, than that we enact 35 million laws and expect everyone to follow all of them.

(From "ITMS", December 2001)

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**WANT ONE—BE ONE—IT TAKES TWO**

If you want a good neighbor, be one. If you want a good friend, be one. If you want a good listener, be one. If you want a good helper, be one. If you want a good confidant, be one. It takes two to be neighborly. It takes two to be friendly. It takes two to be listeners. It takes two to be helpers. It takes two to be confidants. One can't do it.

(From "ITMS", December 2001)

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Love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matt. 22:39) A friend loveth at all times but you must show yourself friendly. (Prov. 17:17; Prov. 18:24) The Lord listens to us; do we listen to Him? (Psalm 145:19; Deut. 28:1). All true help comes from God. (Psalm 121:1-2). Confide in the Lord; it'll be just between you and Him. (I John 5:14; Jer. 33:3). "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).—Editor

### FULL ASSURANCE

Self-examination; what a solemn task! How important, yet how seldom we engage in it! We take all pains to examine our earthly estates but how indifferent and unconcerned about our title to the eternal inheritance. The apostle exhorts us to this duty, saying, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" (2 Corinthians 13:5). What could be more comforting to one of the Lord's humble poor than assurance that he has "Christ within him—the hope of glory"? And this every child of God has, for "*...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ. He is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness*" (Romans 8:9)

Some professionals regard it as wholly inconsistent with a gracious state to be perplexed with doubts and fears, but if a child of God may not doubt his interest in the Saviour, why did the apostle exhort his own brethren to "examine" themselves and "prove" themselves in order to determine their true state. On the other hand, I ask, may a child of God by self-examination, arrive at a comfortable assurance of his interest in the blessed Redeemer? The apostle, we know, speaks of "*the full assurance of faith* (Hebrews 10:22), "*the full assurance of hope*", and "*the full assurance of understanding*" (Colossians 2:2). If these blessed estates are never enjoyed by the Lord's people in this life, why does the apostle speak of them and exhort to them? For he says, "*And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end.*" Of all things conceivable, there is nothing in this life that can produce such peace and joy as a full assurance of a well-grounded hope in Christ.

The apostle does not exhort us to examine ourselves, then give us no rule to go by, but he says, "*Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" As much to say that, if Christ is in us, there are marks and evidences of His indwelling, for all our graces, feelings, and exercises of mind, if we be CHRISTIANS, PROVE His presence in the soul, for Christ in the soul is like leaven in the meal. He will work until His mage is thoroughly impressed thereon. For it is written, "*He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ.*" But, again, the text proves that a child of God may not know himself, may not understand his true relationship to Christ and His people, and, hence, may not know how to classify himself, whether to claim God as his Father and the Lord's humble poor as his brethren or not. To know ourselves, if we be Christians, is a great blessing, a great blessing indeed. To know our relationship with God and His children, to be able to read in our exercises of mind, feelings, struggles, and soul-longings, the proof—signs and marks that

characterize the children of God. Some people profess to believe that Christ is in all men, striving with them, with a view toward their eternal salvation. This idea not *only* contradicts the apostle (Romans 8:10), but also robs the Lord's children of the sweetest evidences of their sonship. If He dwells in ALL men, then His presence in US is no proof whatsoever of saving grace in the soul, for then the vilest wretch can claim as much. But the Apostle Paul suspends the whole question upon the fact that "*Christ is in you* (us), *except ye be reprobates*".

Elder P. T. Oliphant

"*The Gospel Messenger*", 1909

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", August, 1981)

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### CHRIST—BOTH GOD AND MAN

(Continued from page 5)

when Jesus asked them, "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?" They had no idea that the next question was going to be so they trapped themselves when they replied, "The son of David." Then Christ flabbergasted them with the follow up query; "How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord (referring to God the Father) said unto my Lord (referring to Christ), Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?" Then came the clincher, "If David then call Him Lord, how is he his son?" Naturally none of them could answer the question because they did not acknowledge Christ to be both God and man, in which case he could not have been both David's Lord *and* David's son (See Matt. 22:41-46).

In their judicial blindness and hardness of heart they never did see and understand that *Christ* was both the "*root*" *and* the "*offspring*" of David. In their darkened state they simply viewed this as an impossibility, just as do many people today. Therefore, "thou he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him" (John 12:37). True believers are not made by appeals to the natural senses, but by the exercise of divine and miraculous power upon the hearts and souls of men, who, up until that time are "dead in trespasses and sins" (See Eph. 2:1-5).

In closing I will refer briefly to two or three other references to both the Lordship and Sonship of Christ, emphasis mine: "His (God's) Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was *made* of the seed of David *according to the flesh* and *declared to be the Son of God* with power." (Romans 1:3-4). Truly, the same One that made the world and everything else that was made (John 1:1-10). One of the great mysteries of godliness is that "God was manifest in the flesh" (I Tim. 3:16). Beyond question, He is the Great Emmanuel, "God with us" (Isa. 7:14 & Matt. 1:23).—  
*Editor*

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", Dec. 2006)



## DOCTRINES OF MEN



By Elder Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

**Mark 7:7: “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”**

Jesus Christ is quoting from Isaiah 29:10-13 in the fulfilling of these scriptures about the Scribes and Pharisees of his day who were teaching man made doctrines. The word **doctrine** means “teaching or instructions.” These men were not teaching about the true God, but about things that had come from their fleshly desires and wishes. They had so hidden the face of Christ in their doctrines that many did not recognize that Jesus was the Christ when he came among them. They had an entirely different teaching about Christ. Instead they taught such things as holiness comes in how well you wash the pots and pans. How they came and went to the market. Certain foods they ate etc... Yet they taught them nothing about the Son of Man that would come and take away their sins; the true story of salvation being in Christ. God gave the law to Moses in its purity at Sinai, and men corrupted it! By doing this God gave them over to slumber eyes that they could not see the truth. Romans 11:8; Matthew 15:7 The doctrines of men, and the true teachings of God are not the same This fact has always been true in the time that our Savior walked upon the earth, and it is true now in this day and age that we live in.

When Christ came and saved us by the sacrifice of his perfect life, he set up the gospel church to teach this pure fact in the New Testament church. Acts 2. Churches began in Jerusalem, then Antioch and spreading into Asia and Greece and Italy and throughout the empire. These churches began with a wonderful doctrine of salvation by the grace of God. Jesus had paid the price for his children, nothing else needed to be done for our eternal salvation. For roughly three centuries this was the doctrine taught by those churches. Then men began to introduce their doctrines. Doctrines such as eternal salvation by works. They began to say the Apostle Peter was the leader of the church, so someone had to succeed him as being the leader (Ironically Peter had been dead for three centuries!). We need a school for the preachers. Let’s go and ask the school in Alexandria

Egypt what they think about that. Not relying on God to call a man into the ministry, and giving him the necessary tools to preach the gospel.

Originally the church service was made up of three things that consisted of preaching, praying, and singing. Then men began to teach maybe the service needs a musical instrument. All these doctrines that men added became a great many things that took away the simplicity that is in the worshipping of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.** Simplicity is an antonym of complicated. We don’t need a school for simplicity, what the school is for is to teach the doctrines of men! No doubt it was Satan that beguiled some of our forefathers into adding their doctrines. Some did it out of pure evil; others did it out of being mistaken that this was for the glory of God to introduce these man made doctrines into the church. However, regardless of their intentions we need to keep those things out of our churches. Worship service should be all for the glory of God. Leave it at that and you keep the simplicity of Christ. Add one thing, and how long will it be before you will need to add another thing, and then another thing. The Jews thought the same thing in the age between Malachi and the first coming of Christ which was a period of about four hundred years. By the time that Christ did come, what man had added to the simple teaching of the law had more volumes than the World Book Encyclopedia which is about 29 volumes! Man made doctrines spread like kudzu and cover everything over, even the face of Jesus Christ. Let us keep away from the things of man and let us put forth the pure and uncorrupted things of Jesus Christ and him crucified. God bless you each and everyone.

R.L.Taylor

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### THE POOR LEPER

The poor leper came unto Jesus,  
A vile sinner, as you and me;  
Drawn by God’s love he came trembling,  
Penitent, as are we.

The poor Leper said unto Jesus,  
“If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.”  
Faith, living faith, that was given  
By Jesus, who he’d never seen.

“I will, be thou clean,” said Jesus;  
On his Saviour now he will lean.  
Lord grant me the faith of the Leper;  
“If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.”  
Violet M. Hiatt

(From “Advocate and Messenger”, March 1980)

**FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS**  
**The Way To Happiness**

Happiness is built on virtue and must have truth for its foundation. It is not what we have, but how we enjoy what we have that makes happiness. "The world would be better and brighter if we would dwell on duty of happiness as well as the happiness of duty." If we would find the way that God is going and go that way too, we would, indeed, be happy. "To be strong and true, to be generous in praise and appreciation of God's mercy and goodness, to impute right motives even to enemies, to give for the sake of giving, to practice humility, tolerance, self-restraint, to keep the mind pure and the judgment charitable, to extend sympathy to those in distress, to cultivate quietness and non-resistance, to speak little and listen much, to always have a high standard of thought and conduct, to grow daily in grace, goodness, and gratitude, to daily seek truth and righteousness, to work, love, pray, serve daily, and labor cheerfully, and take God at His word—this is the way to happiness."

Someone has said "service" is a word that is used a great deal. When the average person hears the word "service", he is apt to think of something he gets at a service station and department stores. The real meaning of service, however, is something that is given. Jesus, in speaking of service, went so far as to say that, unless a Christian serves, he is not worthy of the name he bears. Those who serve one another shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. For one to keep Christianity for himself is to destroy it. The only way to have religion is to pass it on to others. We cannot have the blessing of Christianity unless we share it with others and we cannot share it unless we are active in service. We, therefore, need to be aware, at all times, of the nature and necessity of service. Remember, service is not something we get, but something we give. We serve God when we serve others. Service leads out of the death of selfishness into a life of unselfishness. The dignity of the Christian is the fact that it is a Christ-owned life. Self-service contracts, love service expands. In service, we put in action an influence that never dies. A Spirit-controlled life is the way to happiness.

Elder W. A. Pinkstaff

"The Primitive Baptist Advocate", 1956  
 (From "The Christian Baptist", June, 1978)

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"Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD." (Psalm 144:15)

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." (John 12:26)

**SON A GIFT—SALVATION A GIFT**

Pastor Clifford S. Stewart of Louisville, Kentucky, sent his parents a microwave oven one Christmas. Here's how he recalls the experience: "They were excited that now they, too, could be a part of the instant generation. When Dad unpacked the microwave and plugged it in, literally within seconds, the microwave transformed two smiles into frown! Even after reading the directions, they couldn't make it work. "Two days later, my mother was playing bridge with a friend and confessed her inability to get that microwave oven even to boil water. 'To get this darn thing to work,' she exclaimed, 'I really don't need better directions; I just needed my son to come along with the gift!'" When God gave the gift of salvation, he didn't send a booklet of complicated instructions for us to figure out; he sent his Son.—Source Unknown

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**ANSWERS**  
**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
**READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

- ACROSS  
 1. nedrub  
 5. yppah  
 9. ro  
 10. lairt  
 11. ithsav  
 12. dt  
 13. ragah  
 15. deed  
 17. hn  
 18. rood  
 19. tseug  
 20. og  
 21. caasi  
 22. rewot  
 24. hcir  
 25. lles  
 27. pot  
 29. ile  
 32. don  
 33. ruodo  
 34. elpmet

- DOWN:  
 2. hairu  
 3. thgiled  
 4. reven  
 5. tsoh  
 6. rettop  
 7. edirp  
 8. thgiarts  
 14. rewsna  
 15. sgod  
 16. hctid  
 18. od  
 20. nehsog  
 21. edisni  
 23. revir  
 26. pmal  
 27. owt  
 28. orp  
 30. tol  
 31. eow

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"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (I John 5:11)

The dead in sins cannot ask for a gift, will not ask for a gift, cannot accept a gift, believe a gift but the Lord bestows it freely by His sovereign grace on His chosen saints. God be praised!—*Editor*

### THE PROPHETS

By Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

The priests were at first Israel's teachers in God's statutes, acts and words (Lev. 10:11). But when under the judges the nation repeatedly apostatized, and no longer regarded the dumb acted lessons of the ceremonial law, God sent a new order—the prophets—to witness for him in plainer warnings. They were bold reformers, and reprovers of idolatry, iniquity, and hypocrisy; they called attention of the people to the moral law, the standard of true holiness; they showed the inefficacy of ceremonial observances, without the obedience of faith and love; and they kept up and encouraged the expectation of the promised Messiah, and more fully declared the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

The claims to be considered as God's appointed servants were demonstrated by the unimpeachable integrity of their characters, by the intrinsic excellence and tendency of their instructions, and by the disinterested zeal and undaunted fortitude with which they persevered in their great design. They were still further confirmed proof which they gave of their divined support, and by the immediate completion of many smaller predictions which they uttered. Their grandest object was to declare the spirituality of God's religion, the necessity of repentance, and the fullness and freeness of the divine salvation, which was to be wrought out by the coming Messiah; we see the proof of their remark especially in Isaiah and in the last and greatest of prophets before Christ, John the Baptist.

The ancient Jews always acknowledged that the chief design of the prophets was to foretell the times of the Messiah. The dress of the prophets was a hairy garment with a leathern girdle (Isa. 20:2; Zech. 13:4; Matt. 3:4); and their diet was the simplest (2 Kings 4:10, 38; 1 Kings 19:6), a virtual protest against abounding luxury. The absence of any greater clearness in their predictions is due to God's purpose to give light enough to guide the spiritual, and to leave darkness enough to confound the carnal mind. Many of the prophecies have a temporary and local, fulfillment foreshadowing their final Messianic fulfillment. The prophets were the poets and historians of their people. (*Hassell's History*)

(From *"An Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature"*, Vol. 8, Elder Harold Hunt—Editor)

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"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16)

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," (Hebrews 1:1)

### WILL GOD DWELL ON THE EARTH?

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"* 1 Kings 8:27

Solomon here was certainly appreciating the glory of God and recognizing the honor that is His. How we need to realize his greatness, his being at all places at all times, the depth of his riches. Stephen, also looking upon the omnipresence of God described heaven as being his throne and earth his footstool. So did Isaiah. Jesus also spoke thusly of the vastness and presence of God. He is so large he fills all space and so small that he enters into and dwells in the hearts of little ones. (Ephesians 3:17)

Likewise, our churches cannot contain our Lord but he certainly can and does fill them with his presence. He dwells in them and makes manifest in the hearts of the obedient sheep his love and his blessings; likewise his displeasure and chastisement of the disobedient one. *"In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit."* Ephesians 2:22 He dwells in us and we in him, if we are one of his. Dear ones, how loving and obedient we should be, realizing his closeness and his all powerfulness, and especially his mercy. We as a church are built for an habitation of the Holy Spirit. The sheep are built together, not the house or building, and are cemented with love, the love flowing from heart to heart. "But God, who is rich in mercy for his great love wherewith he loved us..."

What a precious heritage and how we should strive to keep house for the Lord, in all our words and meditations manifesting the honor that is His. This is especially true because we can look back upon the time when we did literally dwell upon the earth in the body and person of the Son of God.

Written by Owen Hunt (deceased)

(From *"Pathway of Truth"*, November, 2005)

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### BLESSED TO GIVE

Christmas is a time of giving with the ultimate gift of the Son of God and we are recipients of His grace. The people of God are enabled by His grace with a desire to give not only monetarily but in many other ways to honor God for His great love wherewith He loved us. "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:25) You won't find these words of Jesus in the four gospels but as part of Paul's farewell to the church at Ephesus. Be a giver—not a taker.—Editor

God be with you until, by God's grace, we meet again in the next Glad Tidings.